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## *The Avro Anson Aircraft Crash*

At approximately 4.30pm on 28 January 1941 an Avro anson aircraft number N4-5 from RAAF No. 1 Air Navigation School, Parkes, crashed on the corner of Lucasville Road and Clifton Avenue, Glenbrook. The aircraft was on a medical evacuation mission from Parkes to Mascot, transporting a patient.

All persons on board were killed. They were:

Pilot Officer John Ignatious Newman (Pilot)  
Flying Officer Henry Theodore Skillman (Navigator)  
Aircraftman Charles Richard Tysoe (Wireless Operator)  
Squadron Leader James N. Rainbow (Medical Officer)  
Pilot Officer Bailey Middlebrook Sawyer (Patient)

I, together with other members of my family, saw the plane flying low and almost over our home. We knew that the pilot was in trouble. The noise coming from the plane seemed to me to be the pilot 'gunning' the motors to try to clear the escarpment. He probably knew that there were empty paddocks at Emu Plains where he could attempt to crash land.

Unfortunately he did not succeed and they crashed. The plane had clipped a large gum tree on the Duck Hole Ridge and lost part of one wing. I later collected fabric covered wing parts from this area. This was reported later to the RAAF investigating officers at the site by my mother who also volunteered my services as a guide should they wish to investigate this area. They did not take up this offer and seemed anxious to secure the area of the crash site. People were kept well clear and no photographs were permitted.

I believe the RAAF people wished to close this matter as quickly as possible. They may well have been concerned about maintaining a high level of morale among the populace.